



3 1761 11638572 5

CA1
SG61
-69R52

CA 189 61
-69R52

Publications

CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

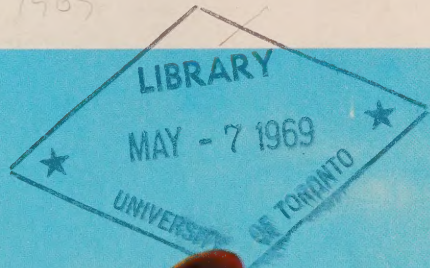
61
52

Service Dog Section

[General publications]

This booklet has been prepared with a view to answering the many inquiries received from time to time regarding the RCMP Service Dogs.

RCMP Service dogs, 1969



Canada

CAI SG 61
-69 R52

Publications

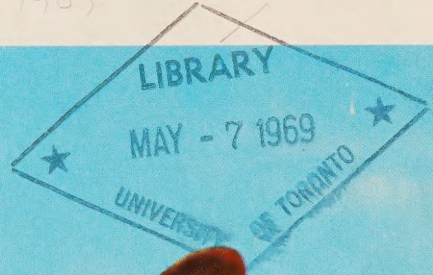
ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Service Dog Section

[General publications]

This booklet has been prepared with a view to answering the many inquiries received from time to time regarding the RCMP Service Dogs.

[6-1] RCMP Service dogs, 1965





ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE SERVICE DOGS

In October 1966, Cst. R. M. Stephens of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police kennels at Nelson, B.C., and police service dog Ero were asked by a civil defence organization from Castlegar to give a demonstration in search and rescue work.

The plan called for a member of the RCMP to act as a quarry, feigning an injury as a result of a hunting accident in the dense bush near Robson, B.C. A track had been blazed in the woods, and it was the quarry's task to follow this trail until rescued by the police dog.

Constable Stephens and Ero arrived at the location 2½ hours after the policeman

had entered the woods. The exact spot was known only to the coordinator of the civil defence group.

Ero was turned loose to search for a scent and after about an hour he had picked one up. He was put in harness and with his master and three civil defence searchers, entered the bush.

Soon the coordinator told Constable Stephens his dog was not on the right track. The trail, he said, had been blazed by the quarry and himself the previous day. He suggested they return and pick it up.

The policeman agreed, but Ero was adamant. He could only pick up a scent on the path he had been following. Constable Stephens told the coordinator he would follow the new trail. The three searchers kept to the marked path.

Ten minutes later, Ero found the quarry who had become lost accidentally due to the dense brush.

Needless to say the three civil defence searchers were impressed with the dog's work.

"We would be still looking for that quarry if it hadn't been for the dog," said one.

* * *

Two months later, New Westminster RCMP received a complaint from a resident of Surrey, B.C., that two men had driven into his driveway and threatened him and his family with a double-bladed axe.

Warded off with a rifle, the pair ran into the woods behind the house. Cst. R. L. Marshall and police dog Dirk and Cst. G. R. Hawkins and Prince arrived at the scene at 7.30 that rainy evening.

Dirk located a scent in the bush and a little further along, Prince struck out on

another track. The dogs came together in an open field and continued on to the rear door of a house.

When the policemen entered the house, they saw a double-bladed axe just inside the door. Confronted with the evidence of the dogs, two men admitted the offence.

"When they were placed under arrest," Constable Marshall later noted, "a short scuffle took place and it should be noted that the dogs could not be counted on because they too were involved in a one-sided fight with a rather large mongrel that also resided at this house.

"However, everything was brought under control with no injuries to either side," he concluded.

* * *

Cst. S. Dowich of the RCMP kennels at Yorkton, Sask., was paged by Cpl. J. R. Nickel of Punnichy, Sask., in June 1966 to bring police dog Rex II to the Bankend



Typical P.S. Dog

district to search for a man wanted in connection with a shooting incident.

The following afternoon, Constable Dowich was running behind Rex II on an eight-foot line adjacent to heavy bush when suddenly the dog stopped and stared into the brush. That morning Constable Dowich had spotted a man answering the fugitive's description from a distance, and it appeared that he was unarmed.

As the policeman realized Rex II was probably scenting his quarry, he stepped back just as two quick shots erupted from the woods, followed by a third.

On the first shot, Rex II doubled up, arched his back and yelped, and was leaving the area as the other two shots rang out. Constable Dowich drew his revolver and fired three shots into the bush.

With the arrival of reinforcements, the policeman learned that his dog had returned to a nearby farm. After failing to flush the fugitive from the woods, Constable Dowich returned to the farm to find Rex II. It was about 11 p.m., but the dog was not around. The policeman remained in the area overnight calling Rex II and at day-break, searched the entire area without result.

It was not until July 10, 1966 that the remains of the police dog were located.

* * *

These are just three isolated cases selected to show the diversified type of investigation an RCMP dog master may be called in on and the hazards encountered by both man and dog.

History

One of the earliest cases on record of a Mounted Policeman using a dog took place 60 years ago in southern Alberta. During the early hours of April 12, 1908, Cst. George Ernest Willmett was shot and killed while on night duty in the town of Frank in the Crow's Nest Pass area.

Two days later, Sgt. Major Charles C. Raven arrived from Lethbridge, Alta., with his bloodhound. In the interim, there had been a slight snowfall, but the dog was still able to trace what was believed to have

been Constable Willmett's beat or patrol route.

According to the sergeant major, the murdered man's scent was too strong for the hound to pick up any other.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police service dog section began in October 1935 with the acquisition of Dale, a German shepherd owned by Sgt. John Nicholson Cawsey.

Jack Cawsey was a sergeant in the Alberta Provincial Police stationed at Bas-sano, Alta., in 1929 when he purchased Dale as a pup from Capt. Ernest Harwich, a dog trainer from nearby Brooks, Alta.

Sergeant Cawsey became a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police April 1, 1932 when the provincial police were absorbed, and Dale of Cawsalta, as the shepherd was known, was his constant companion on patrol.

Dale's ability as a tracker showed up successfully in a number of varied cases and in 1935, Dale, his son Black Lux and another shepherd, Sultan, became the first recruits in the RCMP's PSD section. Satisfied in 1937 that the experiment was a success, the Commissioner, Sir James H. MacBrien, ordered the setting up of a training school for men and dogs at Calgary, Alta.

Type of Dogs Used

In the beginning, the Force was not too selective. Reischenschauzers, Rotweilers, Doberman pinschers and even crossbreeds were used. However, through the years, not only in Canada but in the majority of countries using police dogs, the German shepherd or Alsatian has become the accepted breed.

They are versatile, strong and courageous, and their heavy coats make them suitable for work under the most extreme climatic conditions.

Another aspect is the psychological effect a shepherd has on a potential wrongdoer. They can be as gentle as a lamb with a child or as aggressive as a lion with a desperate criminal.

A German shepherd trained to attack will invariably make a successful arrest



Potential P.S. Dog

despite the fact he is trained only to hold — never be savage.

All RCMP dogs are trained to attack under gunfire or a wielded club and any that display reluctance are not accepted.

Training Procedures

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police training kennels at Innisfail, 60 miles north of Calgary, are staffed by four members of the Force, headed by a staff sergeant. The training period lasts 14 weeks and its main purpose is to mold man and dog into a team.

Beginning with a one-week familiarization period, the team progresses to — especially for the dogmaster — a series of strenuous training courses, the success of which depends upon the master having won the dog's confidence.

Basic obedience is first on the agenda and at this time some dogs begin to realize they are being deprived, to a certain degree, of their freedom and rebel.

They can usually be spotted by an experienced trainer who instructs the dogmaster

to look for certain indications that the dog will break. When this occurs, the master's task is to make the dog succumb without assistance or the use of physical violence, other than shaking the animal by the neck.

In the RCMP kennels, a potential dogmaster can never punish his charge physically. He must be firm but kind, and either praise or chastisement is voiced. If the dogmaster is successful, he will have won the dog's confidence for life. If the dog wins, they have to be retrained.

The keynote for training a police service dog is voice control, and there are three main tones to which a dog will respond. First is the normal voice used to give commands. The second is a softer, more gentle tone used to praise the dog and the third is the lower but harsh tone, used only when the dog needs a reprimand.

Before using the latter, the dogmaster should be sure in his own mind that the dog deliberately disobeyed, not misunderstood the command. Once the tone levels are impressed on the animal and it realizes the results, it will be found that force is unnecessary.

Normally a police service dog is accepted for training between the ages of nine and 14 months, depending on its individual temperament. Like humans, some dogs mature younger, but it is difficult to train a dog once it passes 14 months. By that time it will have acquired a number of habits difficult to break, many of which are undesirable in a police service dog.

In endeavoring to train a dog, book knowledge alone is insufficient. A dog is an animal, not a machine, and this should be foremost in the trainer's mind. No two dogs are alike or have the same disposition.

Because of this, general rules or policies must be interpreted to suit individual requirements. General methods may be applied until the personality of the animal has been determined. A slight change in issuing a command may be the difference between confusing or training it. Each command should be specific and have a definite purpose.

Potential dogmasters must possess an abundance of patience, tolerance to ani-

imals in general and be mentally capable of appreciating the known instincts in dogs. They must become adept at reading the various indications made by their dog and apply it in the right direction.

An incorrectly executed command must be remedied immediately. A dog should be praised after completing an exercise and the day's training should end with a successful maneuver.

When the trainer sees that a team is progressing, obedience work is introduced. The commands *heel*, *sit*, *down*, *stay* and *come* are taught in that sequence.

The leash is the instrument of control. It is held loosely in the dogmaster's right hand, leaving the left hand free to praise or correct. The ultimate aim in using the leash is to have the dog walk beside the master with its right shoulder opposite his left knee, or *heel*.

Upon the command, the dogmaster steps ahead with a pull on the leash. Some dogs tend to lag behind, pull ahead or to the side, but a sharp tug and a repetition of the command will eventually correct this.

As the animal becomes accustomed to walking beside the dogmaster, right and left turns and figure eights are attempted with the command repeated until the dog associates the action with the sound. The constant turning forces it to watch every move.

With the leash still applied, the *sit* command is introduced with the dog *heeling*. The dogmaster suddenly stops, voices the command and pulls up on the leash and training collar.

He places his left hand on the dog's hindquarters pressing firmly, while his right hand pulls the leash up toward his left shoulder. This forces the dog into a sitting position and induces it to sit up straight each time the dogmaster stops or on verbal command.

The *down* command is instituted from *sit* and begins with a pull forward on the leash and training collar. Here it is necessary to demonstrate to the dog what is expected, either by a sharp tug on the leash while pushing firmly down on its shoulders,

or by allowing the leash to hang in a loop about a foot from the ground.

In the latter method, the dogmaster places his left foot on the leash, pressing it to the ground and at the same time, pulls up with his right hand forcing the dog down. Whichever action is taken depends on the dog's reaction and how fast it associates the command with the act.

Before returning the dog to *heel*, it is told to *sit*.

The command *stay* infers just that. The dog must stop in a desired spot and remain until told to move. Normally, it is worked from the *come* command, and it can be taught in different ways. However, the following simple procedure usually brings the desired result.

With the dog *down* and told to *stay*, the dogmaster walks around the animal, all the time praising and repeating the command. If the dog moves, it should be returned to the *down* position.

Gradually the dogmaster moves further away and continues to praise the dog if it remains prone. Then he faces it and commands *come*. The exercise is repeated with the dog and master alternately walking toward one another. In this way the dog realizes that it must either wait for the command or its master's return.

If *come* is always given, the dog may experience difficulty with the "long stay" when required to remain from five minutes to half an hour. If it is used to waiting for its master as well as being familiar with the *come* command, it will not be so impatient when it does not hear his voice.

When *stay* is repeated often enough for the dog to understand, it can be called from a distance and upon reaching the halfway point, it is told to *stay* with the master holding up his right arm, palm forward.

A method for overcoming difficulty with this command is to place the dog on a long line looped at the end. "Heeling" the dog over an area in which low pegs have been driven into the ground at intervals, the dogmaster drops the loop over one of the pegs, commands *down* and *stay*, and walks beyond the length of the line. Then on the

words *come* and *stay*, if the dog fails to stop, the line will jerk it to a halt.

This exercise is repeated daily using different pegs, until the animal becomes proficient, but in order to avoid "second guessing" on the dog's part, it is wise to alternately have it return directly to the handler, eliminating the tendency dogs have of expecting to be stopped each time they are called.

The *come* command is meant to bring the dog to its master, to sit properly in front of him and await further instruction. Once again, if the animal attempts to stall or evade the command by moving away, the long training line is used.

All commands are practised for short periods daily and once the dog has grasped their meaning, the master can begin working without the leash. When the handler has complete voice control, the dog is exercised in an area that contains distractions.

The foregoing procedures have been found satisfactory in training a police service dog basic obedience.

Having learned the commands, the dog is introduced to the agility course. This consists of scaling walls, wire and windows, broad and high jumps, fixed and free cat-walks, ladders and inclined walks. This is to ensure that the dog is fully prepared to meet any type of obstacle it may encounter in field work.

The exercises also tend to build up the dog physically and keep it in top condition. It is not uncommon to see the handlers performing with their dogs over the scaling walls and jumps.

During these exercises, the retrieving of articles is introduced. This can be anything from an expended .22 shell to clothing.

Initially the majority of dogs tend to treat this as a game and want to be chased — but this must be cut short. The handler must insist that the animal return with the article. This is accomplished various ways, from the master backing slowly away from the dog calling him to *come*, or the use of a long training line.



P.S. Dog Scaling Obstacle

Then the team progress to the more advanced forms of training — tracking and search work.

Tracking includes following human body scent, sniffing clothing and footwear and scenting deodorants, and the dog is more or less under control of the handler by means of a tracking line and harness.

It is taught to search all types of scents: expended cartridge cases, leather, cloth, liquids, plastics, wood and paper products. While searching, the animal is allowed to work free as there is no definite track to follow. The dog's sense of smell must guide it and the handler to wherever it can pick up a scent.

Under favorable weather conditions, water work begins. The dog is first taught to retrieve a floating object. Then the harness and training line are attached and while an assistant holds the dog on shore, the handler swims about 20 yards out where he begins to thrash the water and shout for help, calling the dog by name.

Upon hearing its name and encouraged

by the assistant, the dog should swim to its master. The latter takes a firm grip on the harness and the assistant hauls the team to shore. After repeating this procedure the assistant alternates with the handler and then a complete stranger to the dog is introduced.

Now the team has reached the final stages of training and the guard and attack work begins. This is the most dangerous aspect of training, but so long as all concerned know and appreciate what is required, no one will get hurt, other than possibly a bruised arm where the dog has made contact.

No team should be allowed to participate in these exercises until the master has complete voice control. In short, all the weeks spent on the previous exercises, especially obedience, now begin to prove their worth.

In this phase of training, if a dog attempts to be savage instead of merely to hold, a sharp *no* command from the handler causes it to cease the attack immediately, even though its natural instinct may be urging it to go further.

Complete understanding between dog and master ensures that it performs only on command.

Field Duties

After completing the intensive training course at the kennels, the team is ready to be transferred to any point in Canada. With time, they will become inseparable companions, assisting in the detection as well as the prevention of crime.

They will be called upon to find lost hunters, children, mentally ill persons who wander away from their homes or from hospitals, and dangerous criminals at-



P.S. Dog Alerting Master After Finding Lost Child

tempting to avoid arrest after committing a crime or having escaped from prison.

The team is on call 24 hours a day throughout the year, ready to go anywhere their assistance is needed. This often means being away from home for several days at a time, sometimes sleeping in the bush, other times enjoying the modern conveniences of a motel.

When not working on actual cases, they can be found engaged on simulated cases, or the handler will be catching up on his clerical work, for although his work is mainly with the dog, he is first and foremost a policeman.

Continued Training

It is important that the benefits gained during the initial training course be consolidated and developed. In order to assure this high standard of efficiency, all

police service dogs attend an annual refresher course.

Any problems that have arisen during the year are discussed and worked out and are usually cleared up by the time the course concludes.

The responsibility for maintaining the continued efficiency of the dog rests entirely with the dogmaster. It would quickly lose the benefits of basic training if the handler does not keep up with the daily work.

In addition, the master is responsible for the physical well-being of his dog. He is expected to deal with all minor ailments and injuries himself, but the services of a qualified Doctor of Veterinary Medicine must be obtained for anything of a serious nature.

Dog training is arduous — both physically and mentally. The dogmaster must



P.S. Dog Apprehending Armed 'Criminal'

always be ready to encounter something new and have a ready answer. The pair must be physically fit and active, especially when called upon to follow a track several hours old over difficult terrain or in adverse weather conditions.

Growing Success

The success achieved by the Force's service dogs is manifest daily in the increasing number of calls for assistance. In 1949 the section received 282 requests for the use of police dogs, while in 1966, the figure had jumped to almost 1,500.

Almost all RCMP dogs have recorded outstanding achievements.

Case Summaries

Cst. G. R. Hawkins and Prince of the New Westminster kennels were called to the scene of an early morning shooting in the Surrey area on February 18, 1967.

After searching a small farm, the policeman and Prince were walking along a road when a patrol car approached. As it stopped, Constable Hawkins spotted a man kneeling on the opposite shoulder of the road, aiming a shotgun at the driver, Cst. A. J. Erickson.

The man fired, and at the report Prince swung into action, running around the front of the car toward the suspect. The shotgun swung toward the dog, forcing Constable Hawkins to call Prince off or be shot at point-blank range.

Hearing Hawkins' voice, the man aimed the shotgun in his direction, forcing the policeman to dive into a water-filled ditch just as the weapon discharged.

"I heard the pellets hit my coat and my neck," Constable Hawkins said later. "I fired back one shot with my service revolver in hope that it would prevent him from loading the gun and give Constable Erickson time to get clear of the car.

"I then fired another shot at the subject, who appeared to roll over backwards. Then he fled under a high wire fence as I fired the third shot."

The fugitive later surrendered.

* * *

Police dog Werro of the Fredericton, N.B., kennels, was responsible for leading police to an arson suspect in the Pocologan district early January 27, 1967.

Upon arrival at the scene, Cst. B. D. Johnston turned Werro loose to pick up a scent, and the dog located a track leading from the fire across a vacant lot, along the highway about 500 yards and to the residence of a 16-year-old youth who later admitted setting the blaze.

* * *

On December 6, 1966, a car was stolen in Halifax, N.S., shortly after noon. At 1.45 p.m. the vehicle was spotted on the Bedford Highway where a man abandoned it and ran into the woods.

A little later a man was picked up near the intersection of the Bedford Highway and the Hammonds Plains Road by an RCMP highway patrol car from Halifax.

Cst. G. A. Smith of the Truro kennels was called to attempt to have police dog Major connect the suspect to the offence. The dog was taken to the abandoned vehicle, and once he picked up a scent, he trailed through the woods and back to the exact spot the man was apprehended by the highway patrol.

* * *

Indians from the Sandy Bay Reserve in Manitoba were believed responsible for breakins at three business establishments in Plumas and Glenella, Man., during the early morning of September 3, 1966.

Cpl. W. Duncan of McCreary RCMP detachment telephoned Cst. C. K. Jones of the Dauphin kennels that afternoon requesting police dog Max to search the reserve for the stolen goods. Suspects had been picked up.

Max was taken to where their car had been parked and turned loose to pick up a scent. In this vicinity he retrieved two partly-consumed bottles of beer and a wrist watch display carton.

Then the dog began covering a wide area of the reserve covered with dense bush. He located a cache containing rifles, gloves, mitts and other articles. Sixty yards away Max picked up a track which he followed for about 600 yards out to the main

road and there hidden near a tree, he turned up a stolen wrist watch.

The police dog found all the stolen goods except some beer and wine.

* * *

During the evening of August 19, 1966, a 76-year-old resident of a cottage at Island View, Cape Breton County, N.S., suffered a stroke. Half an hour before midnight, he wandered away from his residence and the Eskasoni RCMP detachment was notified.

Cst. D. F. Marston and police dog Sultan from the Sydney kennels were called at 1.15 the following morning, but upon

arrival it was found that the area had been combed by searchers.

Sultan was turned loose along the roadside in the event the man had fallen into a ditch and was obscured by brush. About 1½ miles south of Island View, the shepherd picked up a track and after following this for a quarter of a mile, he went down an embankment and found his quarry lying under some bushes near the water.

The man was in a state of shock, but apparently had no broken bones. He was carried up the 30-foot embankment and taken to Sydney City Hospital.

©

THE QUEEN'S PRINTER
OTTAWA, 1969

Cat. No.: JS62-2367

